

Aquatic Animals Activity Book



Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Aquatic Education Program
Des Moines, Iowa
2003



FORWARD

This booklet was developed by the Iowa Wildlife Federation (IWF) and Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Aquatic Education Program. It is designed to provide a glimpse of the diversity of animals dependent on our aquatic resources.

Single copies of this publication are provided free to educators and youth leaders as part of our *Project WILD Aquatic* program. You may reproduce any of the contents of this book, so long as they are used for educational purposes and are not sold for profit.

Aquatic Education Materials

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The Aquatic Education Program provides a variety of educational materials to educators and youth leaders free of charge. Following is a brief description of available materials. Visit our website (www.iowadnr.com/education/index.html) for more details and information about how you can get materials.

Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD

This searchable CD contains information about aquatic habitats in Iowa and some 370 plants, animals, and other species that live here. Each species account includes the following information: color photos, scientific classification, features, natural history, habitats, range map, sound, and status. It can be used as a classroom resource, or in non-formal educational settings.

Project WILD Aquatic

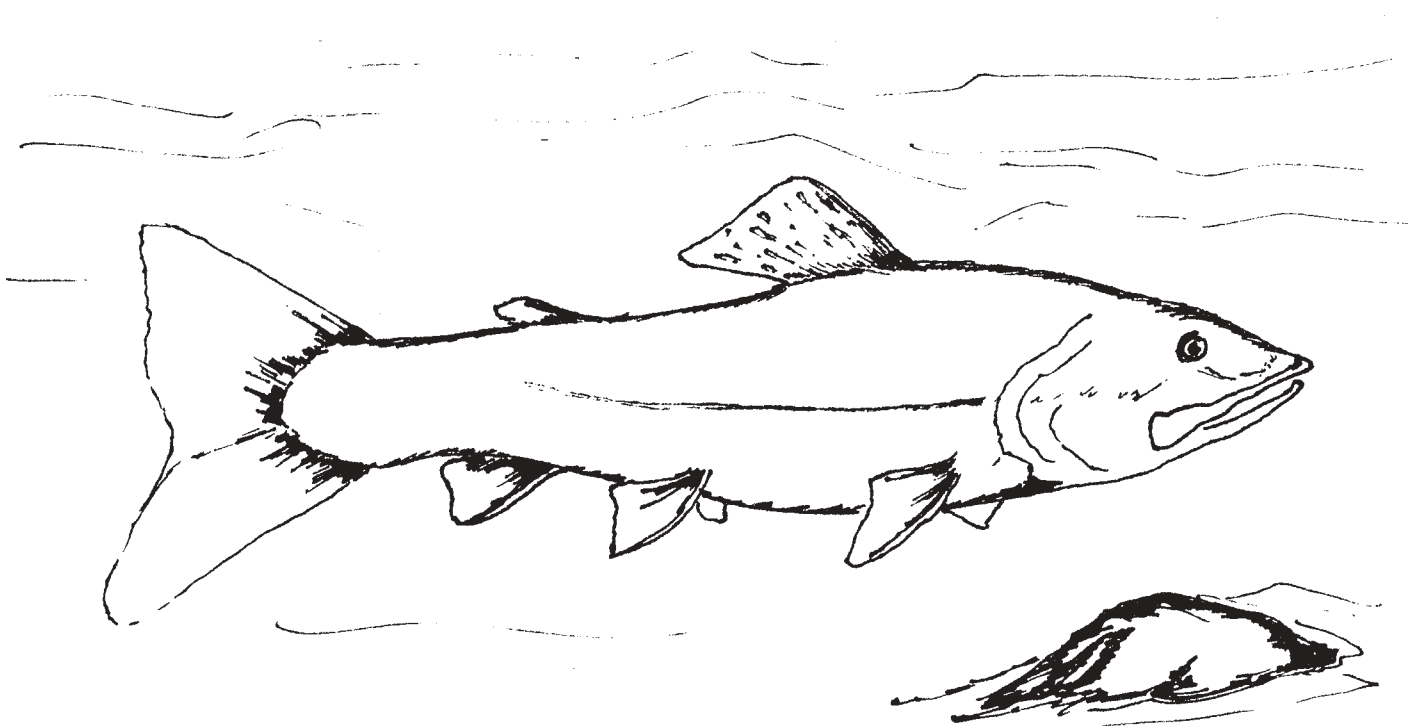
This activity manual contains over 40 hands-on activities for grades K-12 about aquatic animals and ecosystems. It can be used in both formal and non-formal educational settings. The manual is distributed with *Project WILD* and *Project Learning Tree* materials through workshops only.

Fish Iowa!

A spincasting module designed for use in physical education classes, camp settings, and similar programs, *Fish Iowa!* is targeted to middle school through senior high students. Program support includes free-loan rods and reels and special permits which allow students over 16 years of age to participate in fishing experiences as part of the program. Materials are available only through mentor sessions (one-on one) and workshops.

Fishing Clinic Materials

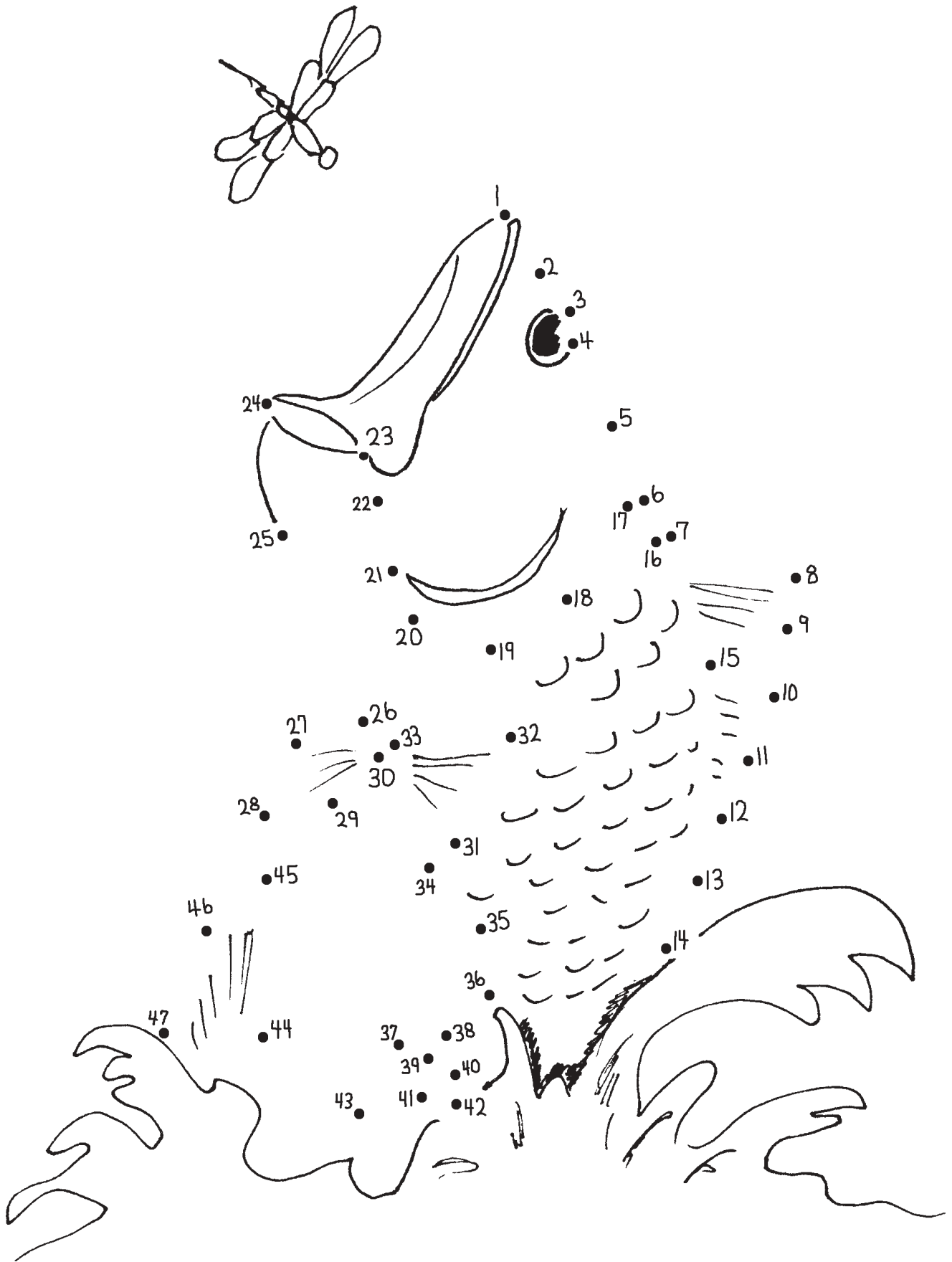
Clubs, organizations, recreations departments, and other groups interested in conducting a fishing clinic can submit information about their event and receive materials for their clinic.



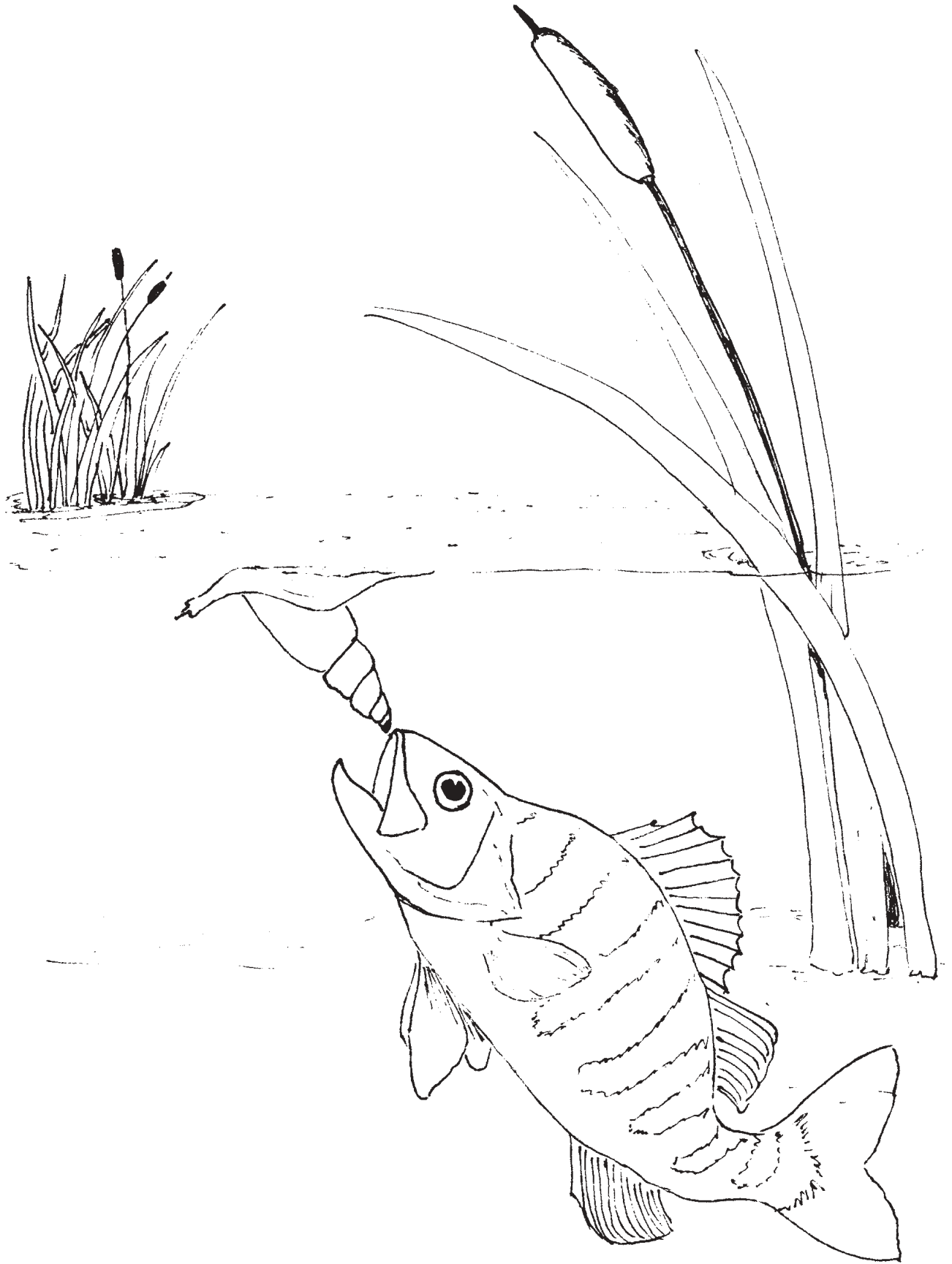
This fish is a trout. Look at its fins. How are they different from other fish?

Iowa has three kinds of trout. Draw markings on your fish to make it a native brook trout, brown trout, or rainbow trout.

Trout need cool, clean water to survive. Trees and native grasses along the banks of a stream hold the banks in place, filter water coming into the stream, and shade the water to keep it cooler. Draw trees and tall grasses along the shore to make a better home for the fish.

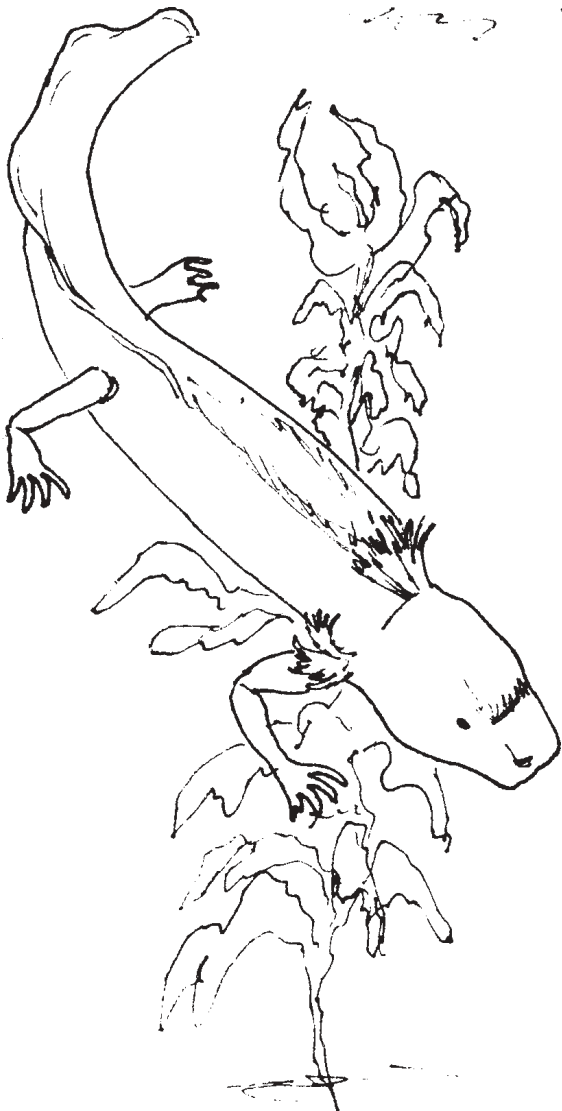
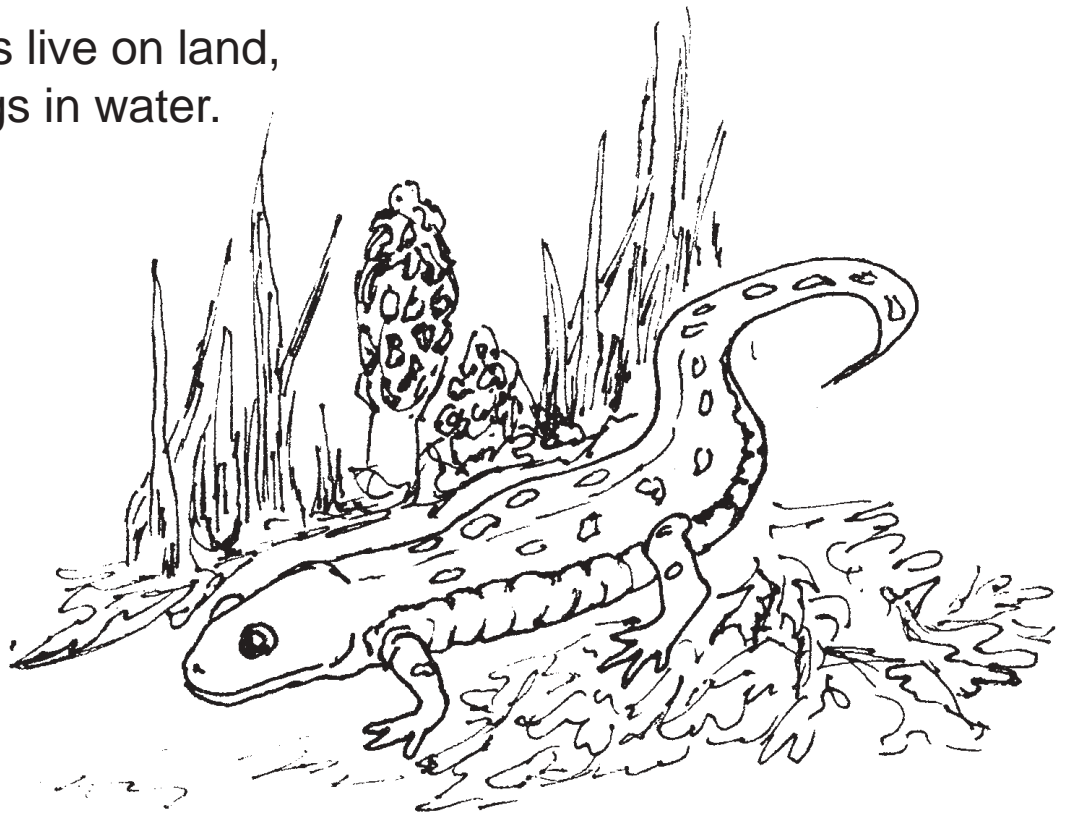


Connect the dots to outline one of our most popular sport fish.

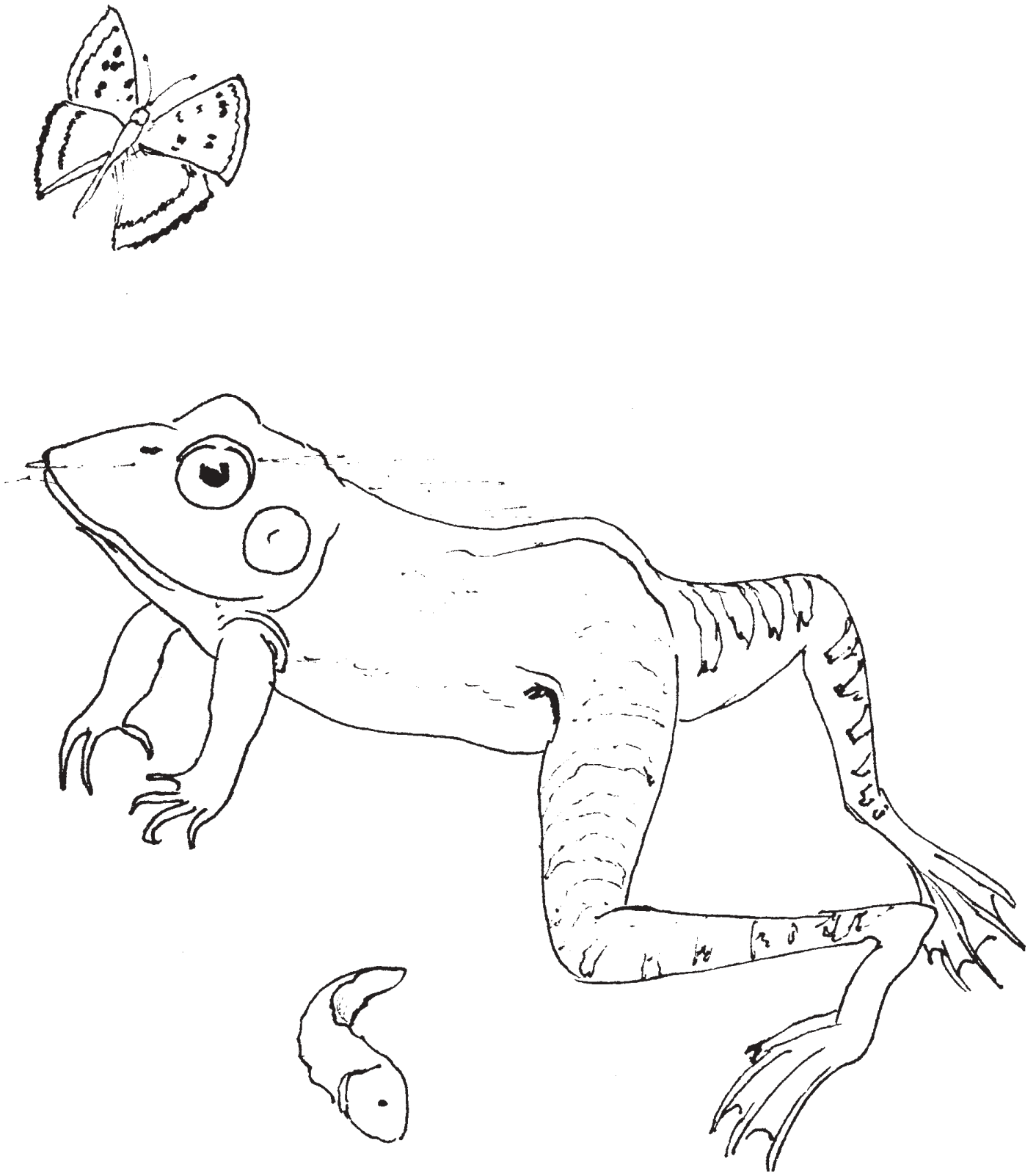


Yellow perch are common in Iowa's natural lakes (northwest and north central Iowa).

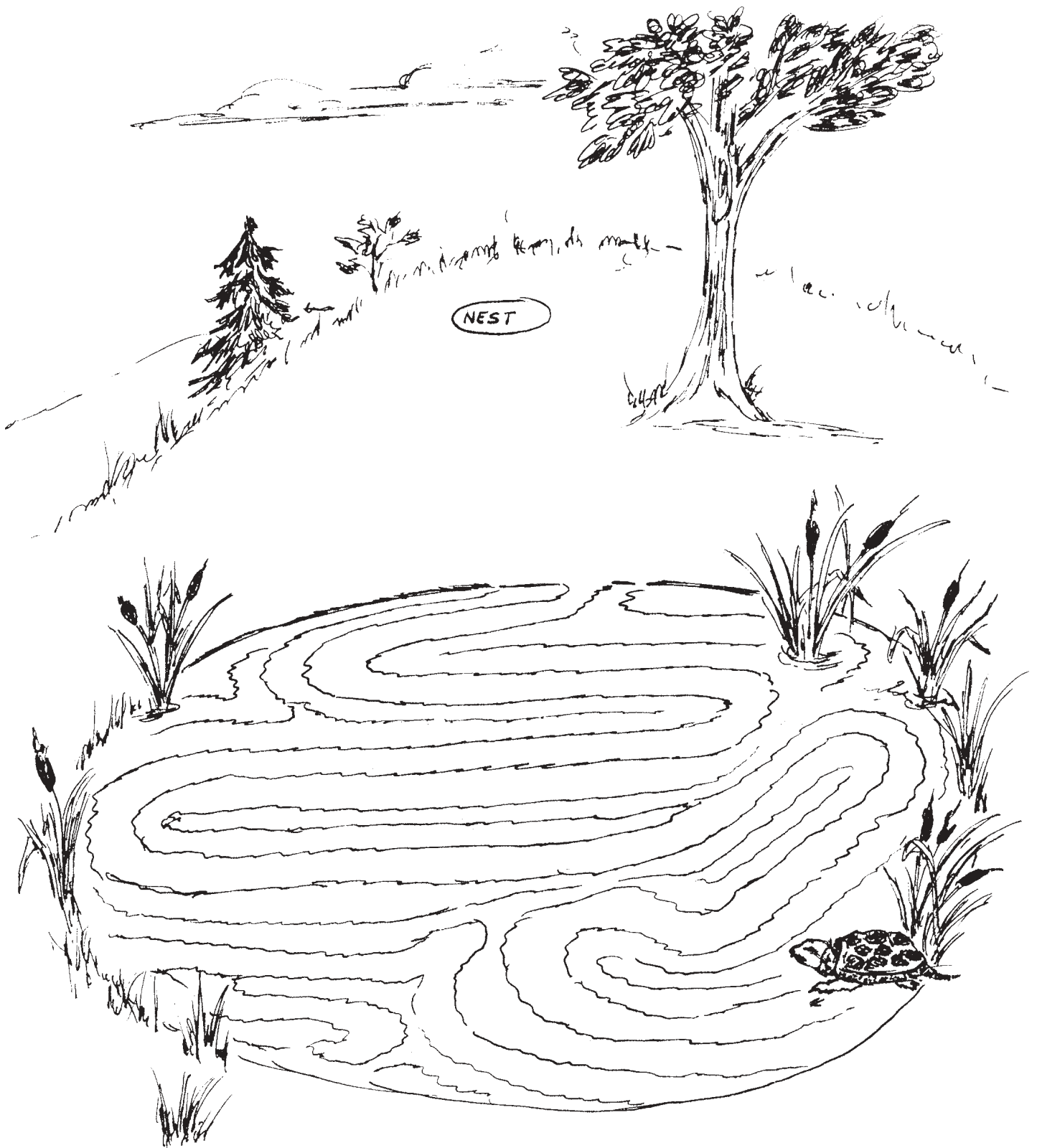
Salamanders live on land,
but lay their eggs in water.



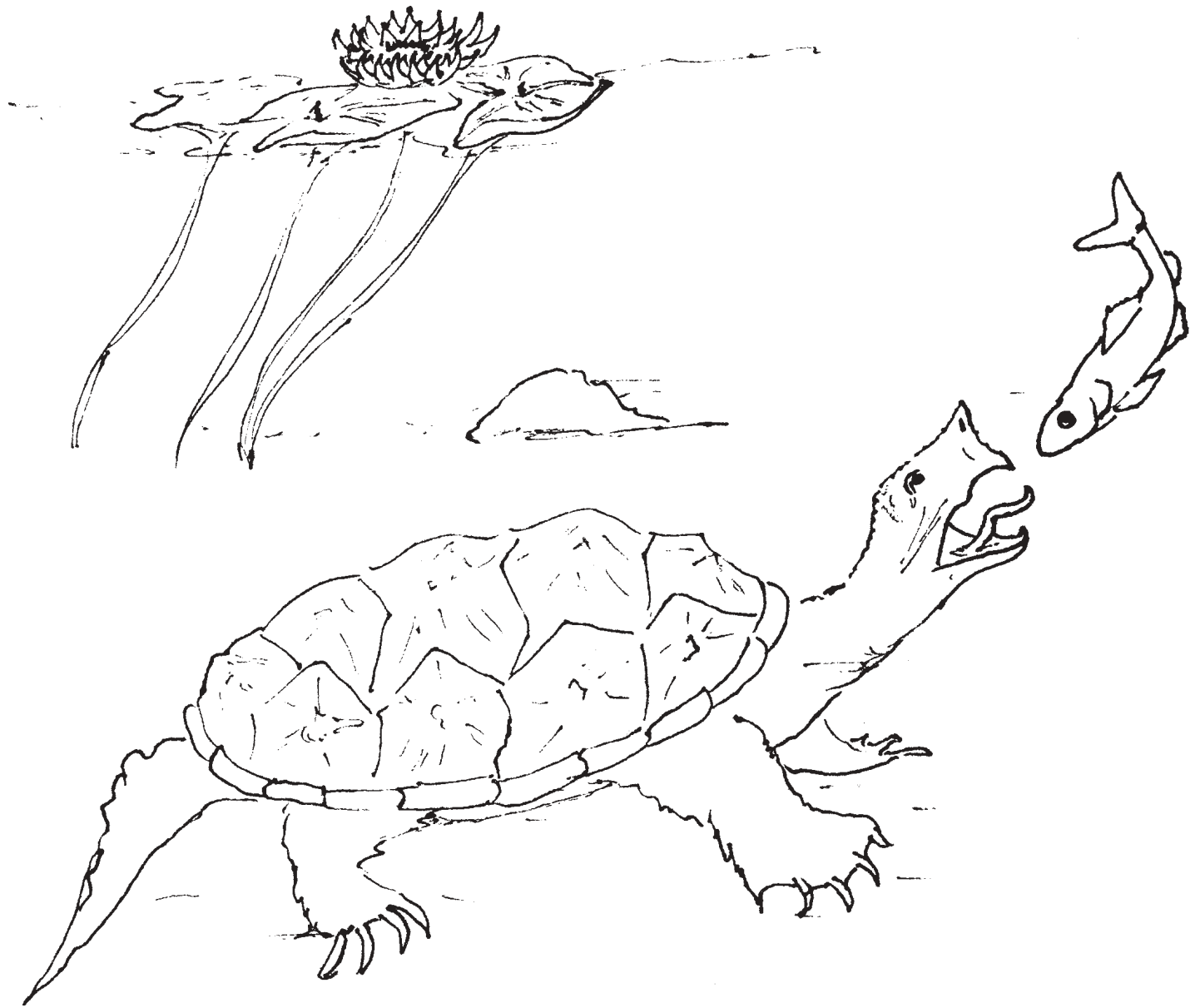
Mudpuppies live their entire
lives in the water.



The bullfrog is named for its loud croak. It is found in waters all over Iowa.



Turtle nests? Even aquatic turtles lay their eggs in nests covered with soil. Help this snapper get to land to lay her eggs.

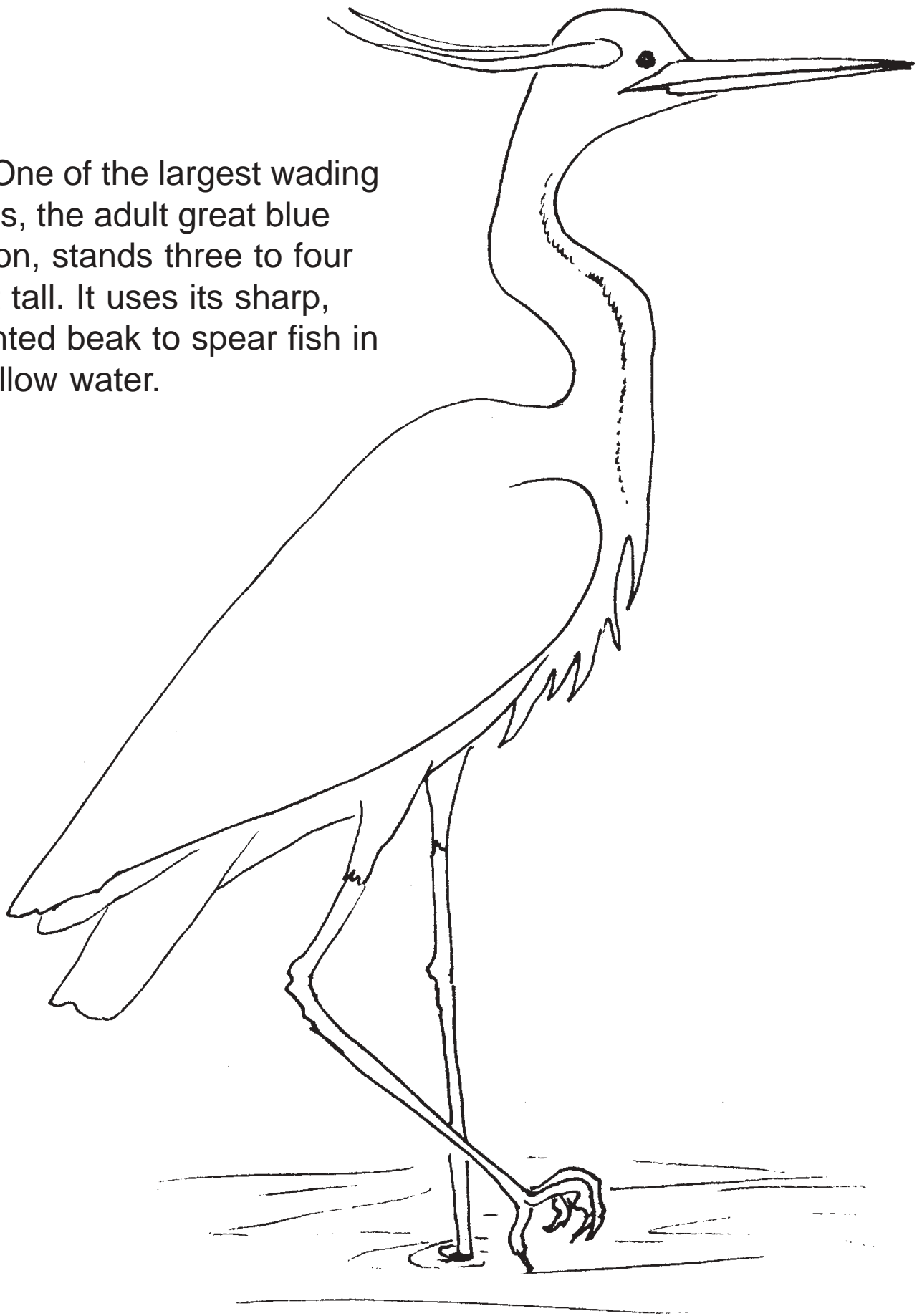


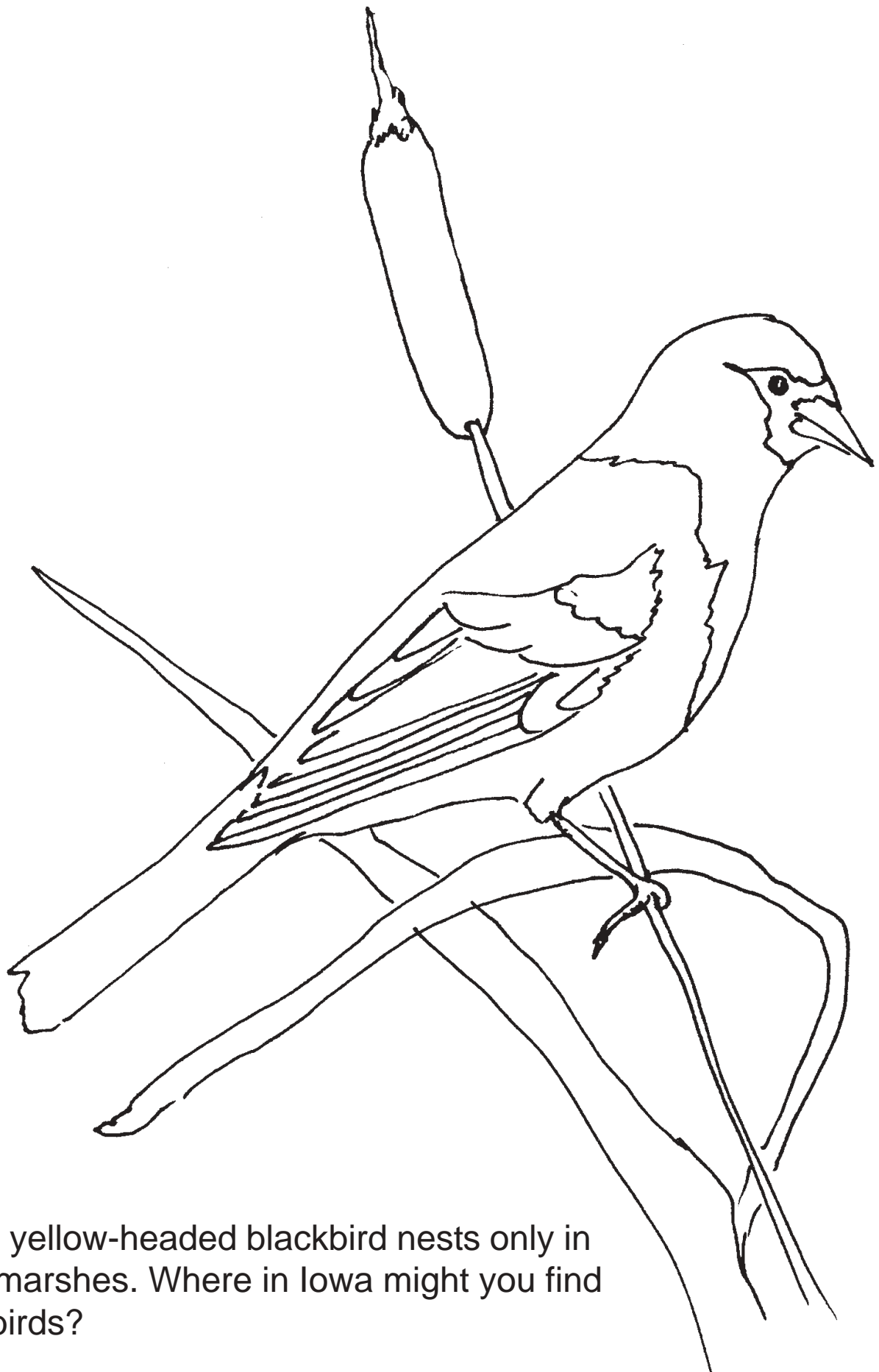
Did you know snapping turtles fish? The snapper waits on the bottom of ponds and lakes with its mouth open to show a “worm” attached to the floor of its mouth to lure fish.



Northern water snakes may strike if you startle them, but these common snakes are not poisonous.

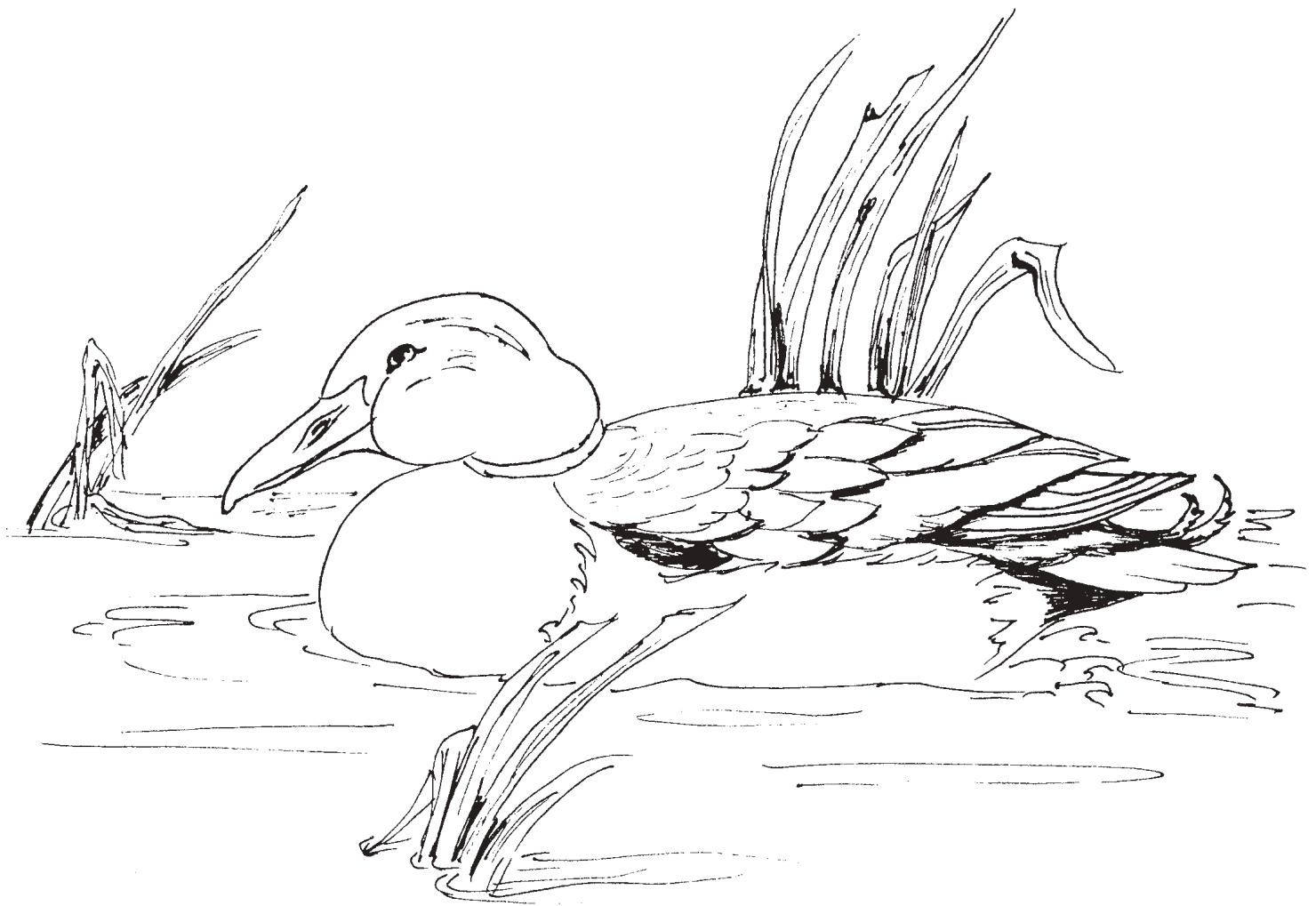
One of the largest wading birds, the adult great blue heron, stands three to four feet tall. It uses its sharp, pointed beak to spear fish in shallow water.



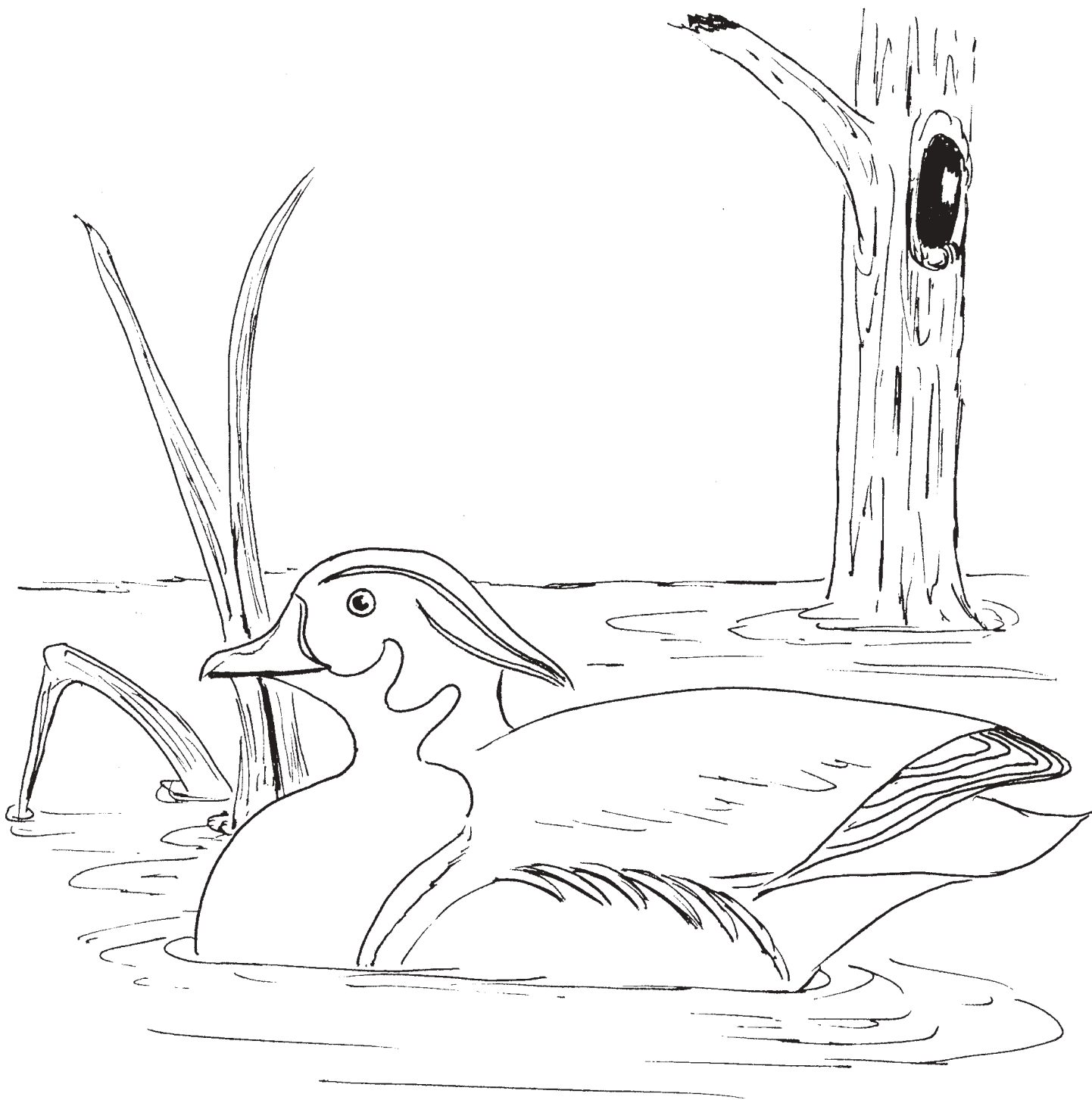


The yellow-headed blackbird nests only in cattail marshes. Where in Iowa might you find these birds?

The mallard is a common nester in Iowa marshes. The male has a bright green head.

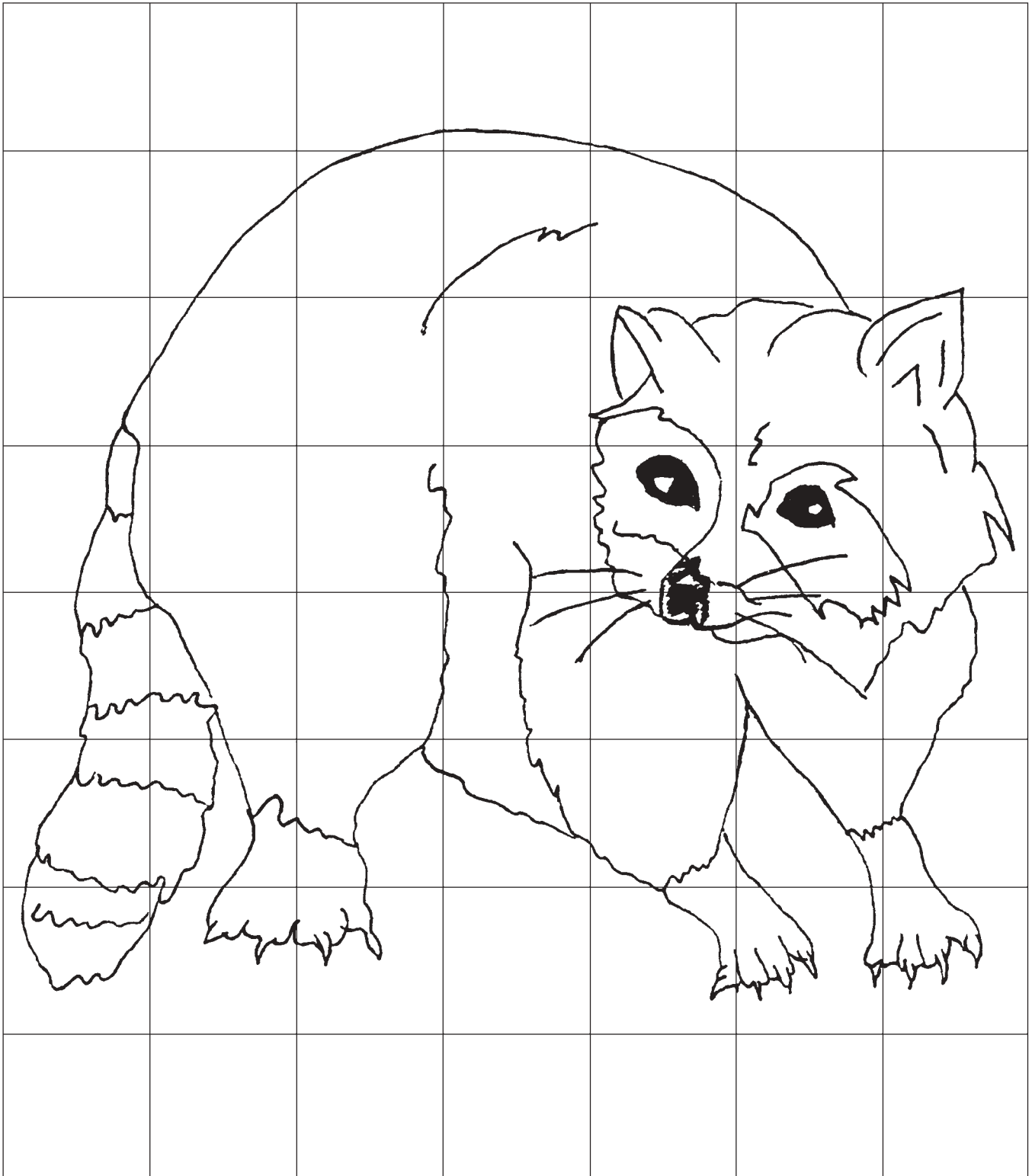


Wood ducks once were uncommon because they didn't have enough places to build nests. Do you know where this colorful bird lays its eggs?

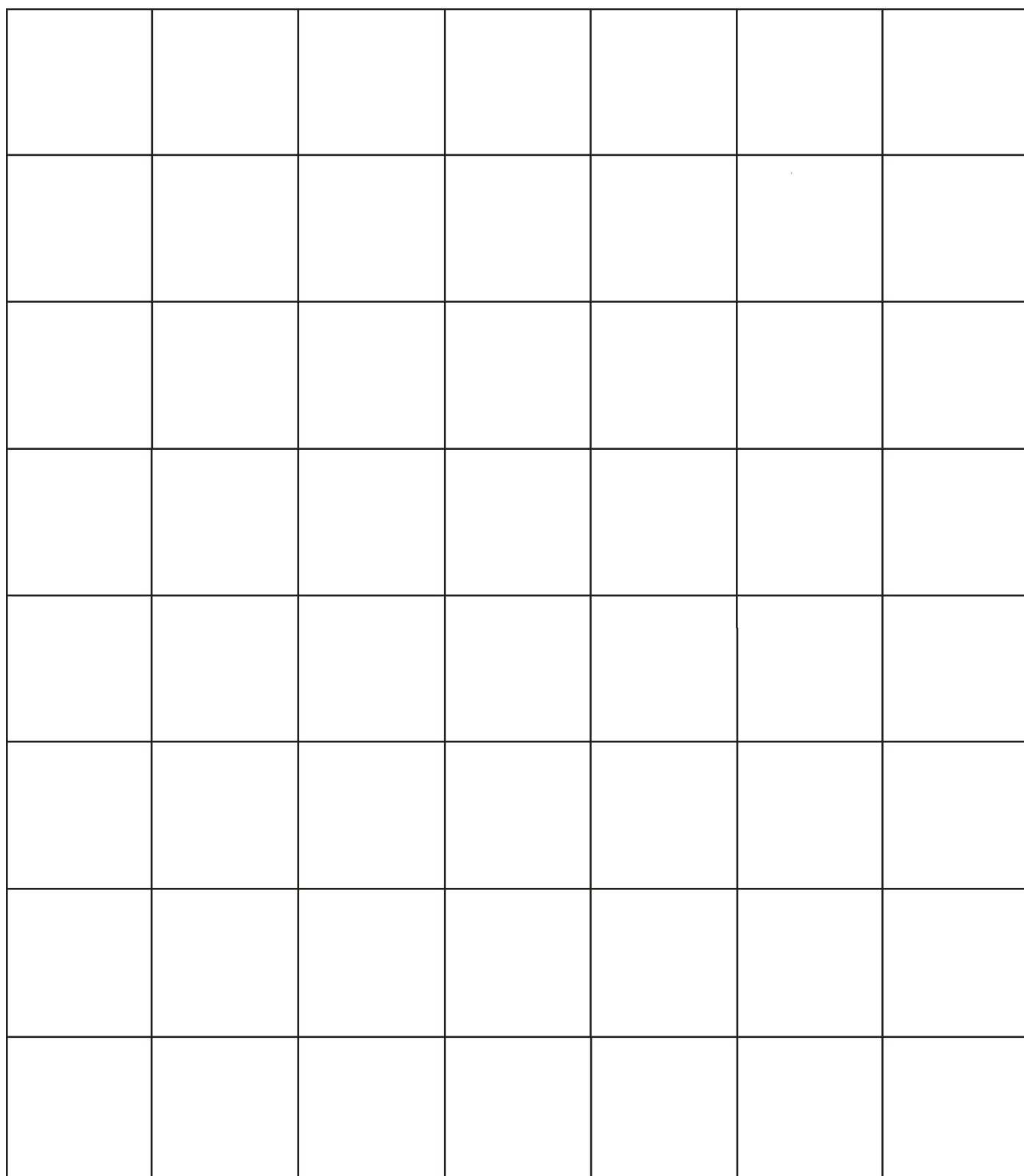


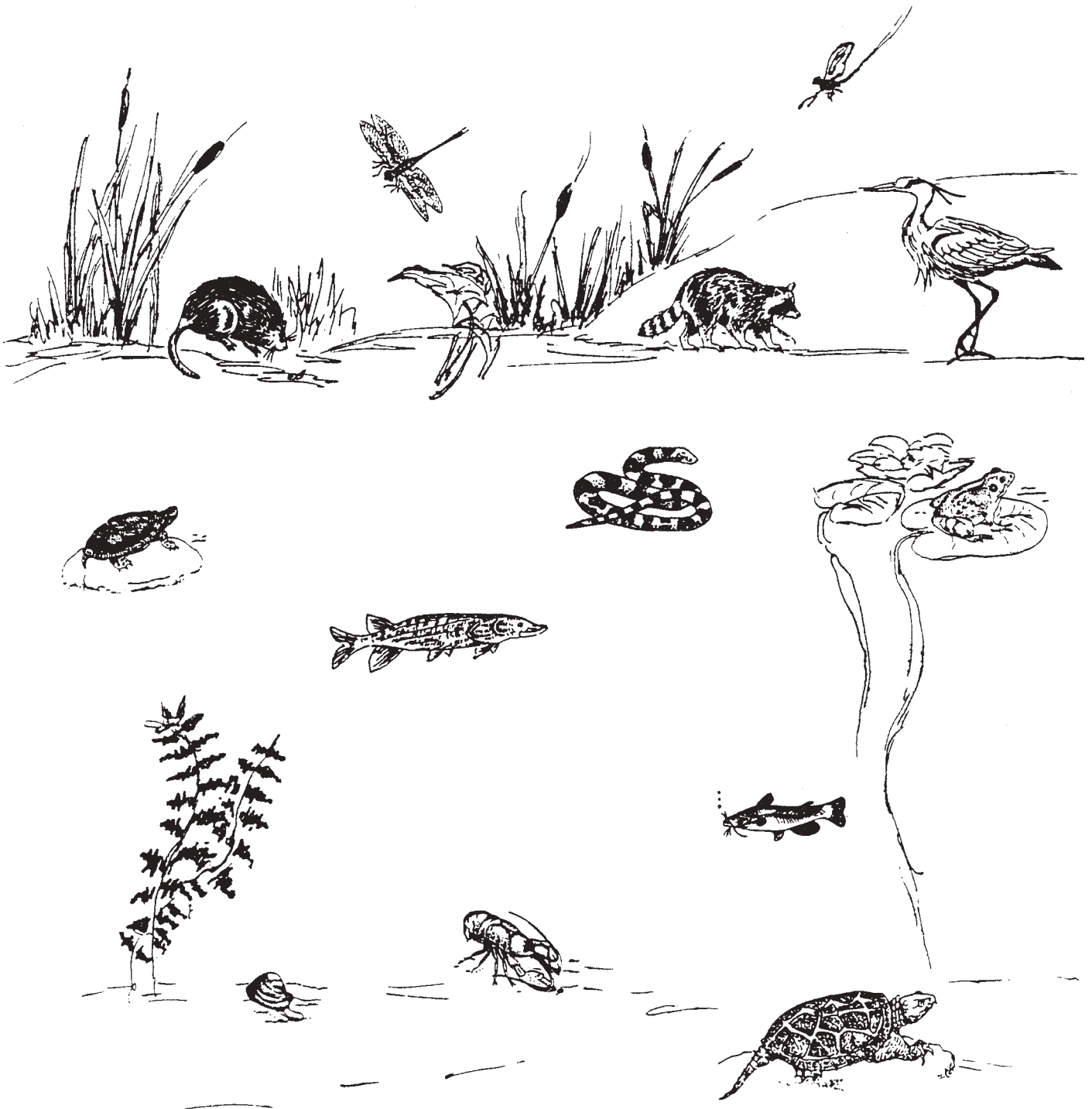
River otters were completely gone from Iowa, but they were re-introduced. Otter slides once again are common along Iowa rivers and stream banks.





Raccoons are common throughout Iowa. Draw the raccoon by copying one square at a time from this page to the blank squares on the next page.





Many animals live in marshes. Some eat plants and others are predators (eat animals). Draw a circle around each predator, then draw a line from the predator to the animal(s) it eats. Use a different color marker or crayon for each predator.

For those who cannot read the size of print in this publication, a larger size version of the text is available by calling the DNR at 515/281-5145 (TDD number 515/242-5967) or writing the DNR at 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0034.

Equal Opportunity

Federal regulations prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or handicap. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0034.

Credits:

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Text and layout - Barb Gigar

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